of reservation percentages prescribed for SC and ST in the different Groups of service. It is however, likely that the intake of SC/ST candidates will be higher than the number as per the reserved share, if SC/ST candidates qualify on their own merit. How much higher, will depend on the performance of SC/ST candidates in each recruitment attempt.

2107. [*Transferred to the 20th December,* 1991.]

Formation of Adivasi regiment in armed forces

2108. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise Tribal (Adivasi) Regiment in Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Presently Adivasis are being enrolled in BIHAR, MAHAR and PARA Regiments and in all Regiments/Corps based on 'All Class All India' basis. However, at a recent Akhil Bharitya Adivasi Parishad convention a demand was made for the Army raising an Adivasi Regiment. This demand is being examined with reference to the existing policy on the raising of new formations.

Light Combat aircraft project

2109. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken on the Light Combat Aircraft Project;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) the cost of the project and the time fixed for its completion;

(d) whether the project is to be aborted, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative by when Government propose to take the decision?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government has accorded in-principle approval for Full Scale Engneering Development (FSED) for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

(c) FSED work is planned to be taken up in two phases. In phase I, critical technologies will be demonstrated. Work on other technologies will be pursued concurrently and these would be integrated in phase II. Cost for phase I is estimated to be about Rs. 2188 crores at October 1991 prices. Cost for phase II work would be worked out later. The first flight of technology demonstrator LCA is expected to take place in end 1996. The LCA is likely to enter service with Air Force in early years of next decade.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Non-revision of pay scales of Assistant and Stenographers in ordnance "Factories/ Board Headquarters"

2110. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised pay scale of Rs. 1640-60-2600-EB-2900 of Assistants and Stenographers, Group 'C' of Central Secretariat vide DOP Order No. 6/6/90-CSI dated the 3rd January, 1991 has not been granted to Stenographers, Group 'C' of Ordnance Factories/Board Headquarters; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The revised pay scale of Rs. 1640-2900, in which the Assistants and Stenographers Grade 'C' of Central Secretariat are placed, is not applicable to the Stenographers Grade 'C' of the Ordnance Factories/Board Headquarters, due to the difference of classification between these posts. The classification of Stenographers Grade 'C' of Central Secretariat is Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) whereas that of ordnance Factories/Board Hqrs. is Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted), as per the Recruitment Rules.